Happy 90th Anniversary to Notre Dame Seminary

Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, visited NDS in October (page 2).

Cardinal Wuerl spoke at NDS in February on the New Evangelization.

90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in Schulte Hall was held in mid-February with over 250 people in attendance (page 8).

Serra Club of the Archdiocese of New Orleans hosted a BBQ for the seminarians to commemorate the 90th Anniversary.

The Steamboat Natchez welcomed the entire house for a night cruise down the Mississippi River.

Renaissance Dinner for the Seminarians took place in November which included a brass band performance (page 5).

Visit us at www.nds.edu
Apostolic Nuncio Visit
Deacon Joshua Johnson, Seminarian

In the Fall semester, Notre Dame Seminary had the joy of welcoming the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano.

The Archbishop celebrated Mass with the seminary community and greeted each seminarian and faculty member after the celebration. He concluded his visit with us over breakfast where he shared stories about his years of ministry. We were very grateful to be in the presence of this humble and gracious servant.

Oath of Fidelity/Profession of Faith
Benjamin Butler, Seminarian

This past Spring, seminarians preparing for ordination to the Order of Deacon and the Order of Presbyter made the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity in the presence of the seminary community. In preparation for the ceremony, the rector interviewed each seminarian to confirm his readiness for ordination, his readiness to live the three priestly promises, and to assure that the candidate is free from all impediments and irregularities. The ceremony provides the entire community a visible witness of the faith and commitment to each candidate for Orders.

Making the public profession of faith and taking the oath of fidelity was a profound experience of declaring what it is that we, as Christians, and particularly as men striving for the priesthood, hold very dear and for that which we are willing to lay down our whole life. So help us God!
For the second year in a row, the transitional deacons had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from January 3-11, 2014. While in Israel, they visited Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, and Jerusalem. They renewed their baptismal promises at the Jordan River, prayed the Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and prayed at the Western Wall. Each day, they celebrated Mass at one of the holy sites including the Mount of Beatitude, Cana, the Nativity, the Church of All Nations, and the Holy Sepulchre twice. Some of the deacons had the opportunity to preach at these sites.

**Olympic Social Event**

Trey Ange, *Seminarian*

The NDS Winter Olympics took place on February 22, 2014 in Schulte Auditorium from 6pm to 10pm. Cuisine was made and served by seminarians from many different countries. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded for the competitions of air hockey, biathlon, and curling done with ice blocks.

**Upgrading the Weight Room**

Brice Higginbotham, *Seminarian*

Pope Paul VI, echoing Catholic tradition from the beginning, said that athletic commitment provides “an effective antidote to idleness, laxity and soft living, which usually constitute the fertile ground for all sorts of vice.” In this spirit, and aided by the generosity of the alumni association and other benefactors, we have upgraded the seminary weight room that all seminarians might better grow in natural virtue with sound minds and sound bodies.
Bishop Perry Outreach and Evangelization

Colten Symmes, Seminarian

As any tourist or local strolls through the French Quarter, dancing, music, food and shops catch their primary attention. But, something else can be seen… those who are in need of material and spiritual needs! The Bishop Perry Center is an outreach evangelization program that hits the streets of the French Quarter and encounters those whose existence society doesn’t even acknowledge. Saturday mornings with our light blue shirts and a cross around our neck, we [seminarians] walk the streets spreading information about the Bishop Perry Center and inviting those whom we encounter to come and make a visit. We talk with them, listen to their stories and pray with them; all of this done right in the middle of the business of the city! It is truly an encounter with Christ! It has been such a positive experience of formation and a chance to get out of the comfortable routine of the seminary and hit the streets of New Orleans to spread the good news and love of God!

Final Preparations for Priestly Ministry

Deacon Jose de Jesus Sanchez, Seminarian

Once we were ordained as deacons, each of us was assigned to work in a parish for almost five months. During this time, we learned from the pastors to minister to God’s people; for example, we were visiting the sick, we participated in different programs within the parish, we also administered some of the sacraments, such as, baptism and marriage. Right now, we are preparing to celebrate the rest of the sacraments, namely, the sacred Eucharist, the sacrament of reconciliation, and the anointing of the sick. We hope to be able to celebrate all the sacraments well for the sanctification of our own souls as well as for those who will be entrusted to our care.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 11, 2014
Notre Dame Seminary Gala & Auction
7:00 pm at Notre Dame Seminary
(Patron Party begins at 6:00 pm)

Friday, December 5, 2014
Notre Dame Seminary Christmas Luncheon
Mass & Luncheon
The Roosevelt Hotel

For more information or to register for these events, please visit our website at www.nds.edu.
Special Thanks

We are beyond thrilled to report that our fundraising efforts this year surpassed all expectations. The Gala & Auction raised a net total of $150,000, the Christmas Luncheon raised a net total of $50,000 and the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner raised a net total of $50,000.

Gala Committee
Honorary Chaircouple
Lloyd & Jan Tate
Chairpersons
Joseph & Erin Caruso
Tim & Beverly Napier
Auction Chairpersons
Carlo & Debbie Maniglia
Patron Chairpersons
David & Anna Jounadot
Byron & Shannon Adams
Chris & Christine Baglow
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Br. Carl Bouchereau, S.C.
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Christmas Luncheon Committee
Honorary Chairperson
Phyllis Taylor
Chairpersons
Patti Hron
Cindy Nolan
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Indie McKay
Maureen Poche
Michelle Abry
Angelle Adams
Nancy Adams
Shannon Adams
Mullady Alford
Glenda Barkate
Virginia Barkey
Susan Baucum
Penny Baumer
Mary Jane Becker
Christine Blancher
Deborah Blancher

90th Anniversary Renaissance Dinner
Michael Richard, Seminarian

In commemoration of Notre Dame’s 90th Anniversary, the social committee hosted our own in-house celebration on Friday, November 15th. The evening included appetizers and live music in the St. Joseph courtyard. From there the community moved to the upper level of the Marian courtyard for a great dinner complete with toasts and a message from our Rector. After the meal, desserts and drinks were served near the pool where a jazz band entertained. The evening was a true celebration. It was a night of community and camaraderie for all the seminarians.

If you are interested in volunteering at Notre Dame Seminary, please contact the Development Office at (504) 866-7426, ext. 374. Volunteers are needed for help with fundraising events, including the Gala, Christmas Luncheon, Chancellor’s Dinner and other various events throughout the year. Your time and service are greatly appreciated.
Companion Family Program

Susie Veters, MA Student

We recently instituted a new initiative to benefit foreign-born seminarians. The new program, appropriately titled “Companion Families,” matches seminarians with local families. Families are asked to include seminarians in family functions throughout the academic year. The Companion Family program is designed with goals to assist foreign seminarians in their cultural and linguistic assimilation, to provide them with opportunities to interact with American families, to offer moral support and encouragement for their vocation to the priesthood and to offer opportunities for leisure.

A Blessing for Seminarians

A local Catholic family, Susan and Wayne Zeringue, have enthusiastically welcomed Hung Tran into their family. Hung is from Vietnam and is studying to be a priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He is currently enrolled in the ESL and Pre-Theology programs at Notre Dame Seminary. Hung shared the following reflection of his Thanksgiving experience with the Zeringues: “Thanks be to God! I was very lucky to join the Zeringue family on Thanksgiving. I had a good opportunity to learn and understand more about American culture and traditions. I was very happy to be there. They reminded me of my family living in Vietnam. Although I am living far away from my own family, I did not feel lonely because my American Companion Family really loved and cared for me.”

A Blessing for Families

David and Lisa Aucoin and Family have similarly welcomed Luis Valencia-Osorio into their family. Luis arrived at NDS this Fall from Columbia and is studying for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. David shared the following reflection about Luis and the Companion Family Program: “Luis has fit right into my family. We have invited him to family meals, a sunset cruise on the lake and the St. Clement of Rome fair. Fifteen foreign-born seminarians and families are currently participating in the program. If you are interested in participating in the Companion Family program, please contact Susie Veters at sveters@nds.edu.

Suzanne Bercier passed away on March 24, 2014. She was 39 years old and had been a student in the M.A. Program in Theological Studies at Notre Dame Seminary since 2009. She was one course away from completing the program when the doctors discovered cancer in July 2012. She fought it bravely and with her usual joyfulness and patience, and with initial success. In the Summer 2013 she was well enough to travel Rome where she had a private audience with Pope Francis, who blessed her and her parents. Suzanne had registered for her last course in the Fall 2013 when it was discovered that the cancer had returned.

The faculty of Notre Dame Seminary overwhelmingly passed a resolution on March 25, 2014 to confer the M.A. in Theological Studies on Suzanne posthumously in recognition of her excellence in academic work and to honor her for her faithfulness to the Lord even in the midst of suffering. In her honor, Notre Dame Seminary has established the Suzanne Bercier Scholarship Fund for M.A. students. This fund will support other lay students who, like Suzanne, wish to study Theology for the sake of serving the Church and for their personal growth in intimacy with Jesus Christ. If you would like to make a donation to the Suzanne Bercier Scholarship Fund, please contact the Notre Dame Seminary Development Office at (504) 866-7426 ext. 374.

The Notre Dame Seminary community is united with Suzanne and her family in our prayers. May perpetual light shine upon her!
Learning English as a Part of Formation  
Luis Valencia, Seminarian

My name is Luis Valencia. I was born in Colombia, and I am currently learning English at Notre Dame Seminary, although I am not very fluent yet. I am going to explain why it is an important part of my formation. When you have an opportunity to learn another language focused on a future mission, one’s vocation is strengthened; and, for me, it is a growth in the spiritual, human, and intellectual aspects. It is a test of patience and perseverance that helps form my vocation, opens my mind to a world of possibilities, and teaches that with God, all is possible. Here, I am not only learning another language but also the culture, how others think, and especially the life of the people. I feel very thankful to God, who has given me this wonderful opportunity at the seminary.

A New Beginning Yet Same Vocation  
Joel Faulk, Seminarian

In 2002, I left the seminary. I was studying in Rome at the time and going through my second year-long bout with leukemia, the first being in 2000. After leaving, I worked as a parish D.R.E. for a while, finished my M.A. in theology, and taught religion for a number of years at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, LA. This past Fall – eleven years later and cancer-free – I finally returned to the seminary, but this time here at Notre Dame. Some people, unfamiliar with how seminary works, have asked if I had to start all over again from the beginning. I told them that I was able to pick up where I left off, in second year theology. While it is true that I am continuing from where I left off, it is, in a way, also a new beginning at a new seminary, yet in pursuit of the same, unchanging vocation – to be an ordained priest of Jesus Christ, a servant of the Gospel, a servant of His people.

Little did I know that within my first year back in seminary I would not only have a new beginning, but would also require a new heart – literally! In early November, I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, due to the chemo from the two bouts with leukemia. By late December, it had become evident that I was in need of a heart transplant. Thanks be to God, I had a very successful heart transplant surgery early in January and was back at the seminary only nine days after surgery, and returned to classes a little over a week later. It is amazing how attuned I have become to the many times the heart is referenced in the Scriptures and the prayers of the Liturgy. With this new beginning in seminary has come not only the blessing of a new physical heart, but also a clear call and desire for God to create in me a new spiritual heart as well, a priestly heart filled with zeal for the Gospel, love for His people, and undivided in its desire to be consecrated to Christ, which is, after all, the same, unchanging nature of every priestly vocation.
On February 10, 2014, Notre Dame Seminary hosted a formal reception and dinner to commemorate its 90th Anniversary. The evening honored the noble legacy of many decades of excellence in leadership and priestly formation. The program was highlighted by reflections from Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Rector Fr. Jim Wehner, esteemed guest speakers Honorable Jacquelyn Clarkson and Mrs. Wendy Vitter, on behalf of Senator David Vitter, along with seminarians David Ducote and Joel Faulk. NDS also recognized esteemed past Rectors Archbishop John Favalora, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Fr. Jose Lavastida and Fr. Pat Williams. Musical arrangements were chanted throughout the evening by NDS’ very own Schola Cantorum. NDS appreciates the nearly 300 guests who attended, including Bishops, clergy, and other special visitors.

Event Sponsors of the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

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41st Annual March for Life—Washington DC
Colm Cahill, Seminarian

About ten seminarians were spread out amongst the 10 buses carrying some 500 teenagers and I was assigned to the second bus in the convoy with Mount Carmel Academy. As much as I was there to serve them in an official capacity, I was also very blessed. I had the privilege to simply listen to them, converse with them and learn what they thought about the world, their faith and themselves.

I would say that as a man preparing for the priesthood, there truly is no more tangible affirmation in one’s discernment than to be mentally, spiritually and physically exhausted, yet still finding oneself totally fulfilled and still eager to serve more. On the day of the march itself, I was interviewed LIVE on EWTN; grace seemed to prevail in my responses [thankfully].

Annual Accompanō
Mission Trip to Nicaragua
Stephen Lefort, Seminarian

Every year, our First-Year Theologians are brought on mission to the Diocese of Grenada, Nicaragua to encounter and walk with our brothers and sisters in Central America. For some of our seminarians, this is the first time they see firsthand what true material poverty looks like and the essential role that the Catholic Faith plays for people who live on the edges of society. After spending each morning in prayer, we were able to visit many orphanages and begin construction on two homes that they completed after we left. The work of one week cannot begin to fix all the problems of the people there, but that is never our goal. Our goal is always to plant seeds of Hope that what God has begun for them, he will bring to completion. Let us always pray for the missions!

¿Dónde te hospedas?
Alexander Albert, Seminarian

Where are you staying, Lord? This past Christmas I had the opportunity to do a brief, intense Spanish immersion in Guatemala. I spent whole days practicing my Spanish by conversing about nativity scenes and the posadas, a beautiful Latin American custom of re-enacting Joseph and Mary’s search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Though I went for the language, I discovered Christ staying there; in the perpetual adoration chapel in the middle of town, in the gorgeous churches, and in the deep faith of the people with whom I stayed.
Support Notre Dame Seminary with a Charitable Gift Annuity

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an agreement between the donor and the Catholic Foundation that guarantees payments to donors at a specific rate for life in return for an irrevocable contribution to benefit Notre Dame Seminary. In recent years the Foundation has received new Charitable Gift Annuities totaling over $200,000 that will benefit the Seminary.

Benefits:
- Guaranteed fixed income for one life or two
- Portion of income is tax-free
- Immediate tax deduction

Advantages:
- Provides for the future of Notre Dame Seminary
- Fixed payments to you, the donor and your spouse, guaranteed for life. The percentage used to determine the payment is linked to your age(s) at the time of the gift. Thus, the older the donor the higher the payment. Rates often exceed rates applicable to CD’s and other fixed income instruments.
- Remaining assets (residual) will benefit Notre Dame Seminary beyond the lifetime of the donor(s).
- The residual benefit may also be used to establish a permanently endowed fund at the Catholic Foundation to benefit Notre Dame Seminary.
- The Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple one page contract.

For further information, please contact the Notre Dame Seminary Development Office at (504) 866-7426, Robert Menard, Director of Planned Gifts at the Catholic Foundation at (504) 596-3043 or Josephine Everly, Director of Major Gifts at the Catholic Foundation at (504) 596-3031.

Example of Rates Based on a Single-Life $10,000 Gift Annuity to Benefit Notre Dame Seminary

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Priesthood Ordination Class of 2014

On behalf of the Notre Dame Seminary Seminarian Association, I would like to personally say “thank you” to all the alumni that attended this year’s annual Alumni Day on February 27, 2014 as we continue this 90th Anniversary celebration. Your presence is always an inspiration to all of us as we have the opportunity to meet those who have come before us and to get to know those with whom we will one day be ministering. We hope you enjoyed your day back to your home of Notre Dame Seminary and we look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

David Ducote
President, Seminarian Association

P.S. We would like to thank our NDS Alumni for their generous contributions to our “I Will Give You Shepherds” campaign. We have had 60 NDS Alumni since January 17 donate a total of $52,135.00 to the campaign. Thank you again for your generosity.
Notre Dame Seminary celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas.

The community celebrated the ancient Feast of the Presentation of the Lord also known as Candlemas recalling how the parents of Jesus presented him in the Temple. The Mass begins with the blessing of candles and a candlelight procession.

Library and Hallway Renovations in St. Joseph’s Hall

A Special Thanks to our Donors and Underwriters for their Contributions to the Fall Newsletter and Improvements to the Seminary

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For more information on how you can underwrite NDS expenses or be a donor, please see the back page of the newsletter. Thank you!
Underwriting Opportunities at NDS

1. Precious Blood Chalices $500.00
2. Thurible $500.00
3. Sitting Area Tables $800.00
4. Sitting Area Couches $2,000.00
5. Sitting Area Chairs $3,000.00
6. New Classroom Chairs and Tables $11,953.27
7. Refurbishing of Main Front Doors $5,750.00
8. Refurbishing of Saint Joseph Hall Plaque $5,000.00
9. Refurbishing of Father LeFleur Plaque $3,500.00
10. Cost of Print Newsletter $3,000.00
11. New Ceiling Tile and Lighting for Main Floor Hallway $40,000.00

Should you be interested in underwriting any of these expenses, please contact the Development Office at (504) 866-7426, ext. 374.

Your name will appear in the next edition of the NDS Newsletter as an underwriter to one of these expenses.